

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08
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P R 241717Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4153
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 0608

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GV, SG, IV, LI, SHUM, AG, MO
SUBJECT: SEKOU TOURE PRAISES MONROVIA SUMMIT, DISCLOSES DETAILS
ON AFRICAN MEDIATION ACTIVITY, TAKES ALGERIA TO TASK

REF: (A) CONAKRY 597 (B) CONAKRY 529 (NOTAL) (C) CONAKRY YTRT
KNOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH, PRESIDENT TOURE
GAVE ADDITIONAL ASSURANCES "SPIRIT OF MONROVIA" WILL ENDURE,
COUNTERATTACKED AGAINST ALGERIAN CHARGES THAT GUINEA'S
RECENTLY MORE PRAGMATIC ACTS AMOUNT TO DESERTION FROM
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ANTI-IMPERIALIST CAUSE, AND MADE MOST DETAILED ACCOUNTING
YET OF GUINEA'S EFFORTS TO MEDIATE MANY INTRA-AFRICAN
DISPUTES. SPEECH WAS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT TOURE,
BREAKING OUT OF HIS ISOLATION, ASPIRES AGAIN TO CON-
STRUCTIVE ELDER STATESMAN ROLE IN AFRICA AND TO CHANGE
GUINEA'S IMAGE AS NECESSARY TO GAIN ECONOMIC SUPPORT
FROM WEST. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE, IN SPEECH MARCH 23 AT OPENING OF CONAKRY'S REGIONAL COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION, PRAISED PARTICIPANTS OF MONROVIA SUMMIT, ACKNOWLEDGED SINCERITY, DEDICATION AND CONFIDENCE OF EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED, AND CHARACTERIZED SUMMIT AS CLOSING PAGES OF AN UNPLEASANT CHAPTER IN RECENT WEST AFRICAN REGIONAL POLITICS. SEKOU TOURE HAD KINDEST OF WORDS FOR HIS COLLEAGUES IN DAKAR AND ABIDJAN, CONGRATULATING THEM, PLEDGING GOG TO CONSTRUCTIVE AND BROTHERLY RELATIONS WITH THE TWO COUNTRIES AND SINGLING OUT PRESIDENT TOLBERT, JAWARA AND EYADEMA FOR SPECIAL THANKS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION. SUMMIT PROVIDED, SAID TOURE, COLLECTIVE RECOGNITION THAT WEST AFRICAN STATES WERE FULLY CAPABLE OF SETTTLING THEIR OWN DIFFERENCES WITHOUT THE HELP OR INTERVENTION OF "PARIS OR LONDON OR ANYWHERE ELSE".

2. TOURE THEN TURNED TO DETAILED CHRONICLE, MADE PUBLIC FOR FIRST TIME, OF RECENT GOG MEDIATION EFFORTS IN VARIETY OF INTER-AFRICAN CONFLICTS. TOURE ADMITTED TO RECEIVING ETHIOPIA'S MENGISTU AT CONAKRY AIRPORT IN SHROUD OF SECRECY AND TOOK SOME GLEE FROM FACT THAT ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN RUMORS, NO ONE REALLY WAS SURE MENGISTU WAS HERE. (COMMENT: EMBASSY HAD RELIABLE INFORMATION ABOUT MENGISTU'S PRESENCE BUT DETAILS WERE LACKING). AS HE DID ON DECEMBER 19, PRESIDENT ALLUDED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFLICTS BETWEEN LIBYA AND CHAD, LIBYA AND EGYPT, ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA, ZAIRE AND ANGOLA, GHANA AND TOGO AND FINALLY ALGERIA AND MOROCCO, ALL DISPUTES WHICH, BY REASON OF THEIR EXISTENCE, THEIR THREAT TO AFRICAN UNITY AND GUINEA'S STRONG INCLINATION TO MEDIATE, ARE FERTILE FIELDS FOR CONTINUING GUINEAN ROLE. TOURE DECLARED HIS BRAND OF DIPLOMACY WAS SILENT BUT NONETHELESS ACTIVE, GOG HAD ALREADY REGISTERED SOME MINOR BUT NEVERTHELESS IMPORTANT MEDIATION ROLES IN RESOLVING LIBYAN-SUDAN CONFLICT, HAD TRIED TO MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCING LEVEL OF WARFARE IN HORN, HAD ESTABLISHED CREDITABLE RECORD OF MEDIATION IN LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN CONFLICT LAST YEAR, AND DECLARED THAT GUINEA WOULD "CONTINUE TO WORK FOR PEACE BETWEEN ALL OPPOSING AFRICAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES."

3. IN MOST INTERESTING PART OF SPEECH, TOURE BLAMED ALGERIA FOR STALLING GUINEAN MEDIATION WHICH, HE CLAIMED, COULD HAVE SETTLED WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT. TOURE MADE LONG HISTORICAL ASIDE TO DOCUMENT GUINEA'S SUPPORT OF PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION, ARGUING THAT THIS WAS BASIS OF GUINEA'S APPROACH TO SAHARA QUESTION (EVEN THOUGH

SAHARIANS MIGHT THEORETICALLY CHOOSE ASSOCIATION WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRY). TOURE RECALLED HIS ACT OF SELF-ASSERTION AND SHOWMANSHIP AT UN IN EARLY 1960S WHEN HE WON PASSAGE OF KEY RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SELF-DETERMINATION DESPITE "INTERFERING TACTICS OF TWO POWER BLOCS" (HE ADDED JIBE AT KHRUSHCHEV'S SHOE-POUNDING). TOURE ALSO RECALLED GUINEA'S PARTICIPATION AS MEDIATOR IN CASA-BLANCA TALKS ON DECOLONIZATION OF WESTERN SAHARA, CALLING IT AN IMPORTANT PRECEDENT. SEKOU TOURE DREW COMPASSIONATE PICTURE OF FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP WITH MOROCCO'S MOHAMED V AND HIS ABIDING TRUST FOR FORMER MOROCCAN LEADER'S INTEGRITY AND HONESTY. HE PRAISED HASSAN II'S SIMILAR QUALITIES AND SPOKE OF LATTER AS "BROTHER". TOURE RECOGNIZED MOROCCO'S WILLINGNESS TO HEAR HIS VIEWS --
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EVEN IF THEY MIGHT RUN COUNTER TO HASSAN'S POSITION ON THE WESTERN SAHARA. TOURE THEN PROVIDED DETAILED CHRONICLE OF SECRET GOG EFFORTS TO PLAY EFFECTIVE ROLE IN WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT. (DATES OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS WERE MISSING BUT GENERAL TIME FRAME SEEMED DURING LAST FEW YEARS). TOURE SAID HE HAD BEEN FULLY PREPARED TO TRAVEL FIRST TO RABAT AND THEN TO ALGIERS TO HAMMER OUT SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE. ACCORDING TO SEKOU TOURE'S VERSION, ALGEIRS HAD FIRST AGREED TO SEEK, THROUGH GUINEA'S GOOD OFFICES, SOLUTION BEFORE ATTENDING (PRE-SUMABLY OAU-SPONSORED) CONFERENCE ON WESTERN SAHARA ON MAURITIUS. BUT FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA, IN UNEXPECTED CHANGE, SUDDENLY RENEGED, THUS SCOTCHING GOG ROLE. SEKOU TOURE CLAIMED TO HAVE HAD "SOLUTION IN HAND" AND OBSERVED THAT ALGIERS DIDN'T DEIGN TO EVEN THANK GOG FOR ITS EFFORTS.

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4. PRESIDENT THEN RECAPITULATED AND RE-EMPHASIZED GOG COMMITMENT AND SINCERITY IN ITS PLEDGE TO CONTRIBUTE IDEAS FOR RESOLVING ALL RPT ALL CONFLICTS ON AFRICAN CONTINENT. SEKOU TOURE ADDED TO HIS USUAL CLOSING EXCLAMATION -- "DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM" -- NEW CALL FOR AFRICAN UNITY AND PEACE ON CONTINENT.

5. SIMULTANEOUSLY, EDITORIAL IN PARTY-STATE WEEKLY "HOROYA" (ISSUED MARCH 23) MADE BLISTERING POLEMICAL COUNTERATTACK AGAINST ALGERIAN FLN JOURNAL'S CHARGE IN JANUARY (REF B, C) THAT GUINEA HAS GONE SOFT AND SOLD OUT TO IMPERIALISM IN REMAINING SILENT ON SAHARA, CONFIDENTIAL

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HORN AND MIDDLE EAST. (BLAST IS FIRST MADE AGAINST FELLOW "PROGRESSIVE" STATE IN MEMORY). "HOROYA" PRINTS FULL TEXT OF GOG'S PROTEST AND DEMAND FOR RETRACTION, ACCUSES ALGERIAN PRESS OF "DEFAMATION" AND "PROVOCATION", CLAIMS GUINEA'S "SILENCE" ACTUALLY HAS BEEN DISCRETION CONCEALING CONSTRUCTIVE DIPLOMACY ON BEHALF OF AFRICAN UNITY.

6. COMMENT: SEKOU TOURE BEARS ALL THE EARMARKS OF MAN TRYING TO MAKE COMEBACK AS ELDER STATESMAN OF AFRICA.

THEME OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY SINCE DECEMBER 19 SPEECH BEGAN RECONCILIATION WITH SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST HAS BEEN HEALING OF AFRICAN DISPUTES BY AFRICANS THEMSELVES AND PROMOTING GUINEA'S SERVICES IN THIS, HARKING BACK TO EARLY 1960S WHEN HE ASPIRED TO SIMILAR ROLE. HIS SPIRITED DEFENSE AGAINST ALGERIAN SNEERS AT GUINEA'S BACKSLIDING FROM "ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE" WAS PROBABLY

AIMED ALSO AT OTHER, LESS PUBLIC DOUBTERS IN RADICAL REGIMES QUESTIONING HIS MORE PRAGMATIC LINE OF RECENT MONTHS. TONE OF SPEECH WAS VERY MUCH THAT OF "NEW" SEKOU TOURE -- MOSTLY FACTUAL, STATESMANLIKE, NON-PARTISAN, AVUNCULAR -- IN CONTRAST TO "OLD" TOURE'S EXTREMIST RABBLE-ROUSING. SPEECH DOUBTLESS ALSO INTENDED, THROUGH HIS MONROVIA WRAP-UP REMARKS, TO CONVEY ASSURANCE HE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT RECONCILIATION AND TO CONVINCE LISTENERS HIS INITIATIVE WAS NOT COOKED UP ON SPUR OF EMOTIONAL MOMENT AFTER FOOTBALL VICTORY. ALTHOUGH HE MAY HAVE EXAGGERATED HIS AND GUINEA'S ROLE IN VARIOUS MEDIATION EFFORTS, HE WAS CLEARLY MAKING CASE FOR FUTURE AVAILABILITY AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO BUILD ON ACTIVIST MOMENTUM, BREAKING OUT OF HIS SELF-IMPOSED ISOLATION OF RECENT YEARS. SPEECH IS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE TOURE WILL CONTINUE TO

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AOVID TAKING SIDES IN CONFLICTS, THUS FURTHER STRENGTHENING GUINEA'S NEW LESS-PRO-SOVIET IMAGE OF TRUE NON-ALIGNMENT AND FURTHER REASSURING HIS MODERATE AND SKEPTICAL NEIGHBORS. END COMMENT.

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